is the position in this regard with respect to each bank in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Health insurance

†1540. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide health insurance facility to the persons living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when this scheme will be implemented; and

(d) the number of persons living below the poverty line and the amount that will be spent on their health insurance, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Redesigned Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) with subsidy for BPL families was introduced in 2004-05 with the sole purpose of providing health insurance to BPL families in the country against a premium of Rs. 365, Rs. 548 and Rs. 730 with a subsidy of Rs. 200, Rs. 300 and Rs. 400 on premium for an individual, family of five and family of seven members respectively. The scheme is being implemented by the four public sector general insurance companies. The policy mainly covers hospitalization benefits up to **a** limit of Rs. 30,000 for a family on a floater basis including compensation for accidental death of the earning head of the family for Rs. 25,000. Compensation at the rate of Rs. 50 per day for a maximum of 15 days for the period of hospitalization is also payable to the earning head of the family.

(d) As per the Planning Commission estimates, covering the period from 1999 to June 2000, the number of persons below poverty line was 26.03 crore. During 2006-07 a provision Rs. 25 crore was made in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Budget for covering 8 lakh families. However, no State-wise allocations are made.

Spending on welfare of SCs and STs

†1541. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any direction under which it would be mandatory for all Ministries to spend 22.5 per cent of the resources at their disposal on welfare of SCs and STs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether Government intend to consider any such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No such direction has been issued.

(c) Not all Budgetary outlays of different Ministries/Departments have a direct relationship with population profile. The percentage of Budget spent on welfare of SCs and STs, therefore, varies from Department to Department. Statement No. 21 of Expenditure Budget Vol. I Budget 2007-08 summarizes the budget provisions earmarked for welfare of SCs and STs. Para No. 33 and 34 of Budget Speech 2007-08 highlights the allocations for SCs/STs.

Withdrawal of tax exemptions

1542. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to withdraw exemption of taxes to prevent misuse; and

(b) if so, the details of such withdrawals of tax exemptions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government reviews all exemptions and deductions from time to time. In the course of such periodic review, those exemptions that have outlived their utility or where the objective conditions

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi